

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 6137

EXDIS

FOR HARTMAN FROM SILBERMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YO, US

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF EMBASSY CONTACTS

REF: BELGRADE 5952

1. WHILE THE SUBJECT HAS BEEN TREATED TANGENTIALLY IN OTHER EXCHANGES, HERE IS OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF EMBASSY CONTACTS OVER THE PAST WEEK. I AM NOT GETTING TO SEE POLITICAL LEADERS AND VISITS ARE FALLING THROUGH, BUT WORKING-LEVEL CONTACTS CONTINUE MORE OR LESS AS USUAL.

2. MY LONGSTANDING REQUESTS FOR APPOINTMENT WITH POLITICAL TYPES--GRICKOV (LCY), GLIGOROV (ASSEMBLY), STAMBOLIC (PRESIDENCY), ZARKOVIC (VICE PRESIDENT AND KURTOVIC (LCY) HAVE NOT BEEN HONORED. MEETING WITH SERBIAN PRESIDENT MARKOVIC ARRANGED TODAY AFTER LONG DELAY. A REQUEST TO CALL ON MILUTINOVIC, TITO'S CHIEF DE CABINET, WAS MADE YESTERDAY AND PROVIDED SOME CONSTERNATION. AN AIDE WANTED TO KNOW WHY I WANTED TO SEE MILUTINOVIC INSTEAD OF SOMEONE AT FSFA. WITHIN THE FSFA THE SITUATION SEEMS BETTER. PROTOCOL CHIEF VILUS HAD A GOOD REASON NOT TO LUNCH WITH ME THIS WEEK, BUT HE HAS ACCEPTED FOR A DINNER ON THE 28TH. I SAW ASST. SECY KOMATINA LAST WEEK ON NON-ALIGNED AND UN AFFAIRS, AND WAS CALLED IN SEPT 17 TO SEE ASST. SECY BERNARDIC ON CARLOS (SEPTTEL ON THIS BEING SENT).

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3. FSFA OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS JAZIC HAS MET WITH THE COUNSELOR TWICE RECENTLY AND ACCEPTED A DINNER INVITATION FOR NEXT WEEK. SEVERAL OFFICIALS IN HEALTH AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGE FIELD HAVE ACCEPTED INVITATIONS FOR LUNCH AT COUNSELOR'S HOME FOR VISITING HEW OFFICIAL COOPER.

4. POLITICAL OFFICERS HERE EASILY ARRANGED APPOINTMENTS IN FSFA, IN THE SERBIAN GOVERNMENT AND WITH FEDERAL-LEVEL NARCOTICS OFFICIAL. ON THE OTHER HAND, A NARCOTICS CONTACT IN THE CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION DECLINED A LUNCHEON INVITATION SAYING HE WAS "BUSY".

5. THE ECONOMIC SECTION REPORTS A NORMAL RANGE OF CONTACTS, AS DOES USIS. HOWEVER, THREE SENIOR JOURNALISTS THIS WEEK POSTPONED THEIR TRIPS TO THE U.S. UNDER THE IVP PROGRAM AND USIS DIRECTOR HAS BEEN HAVING SOME DIFFICULTY OBTAINING AN APPOINTMENT WITH A FOURTH WHO IS SCHEDULED TO GO.

6. DAO CONTACTS WITH THE FOREIGN LIAISON SECTION OF DEFENSE SECRETARIAT CONTINUE NORMALLY, BUT THE YUGOSLAVS SEEM TO BE DRAGGING THEIR FEET WITH REGARD TO THE VISIT OF GENERAL CEMALOVIC TO OUR BASE AT RAMSTEIN, GERMANY. DEFENSE SECRETARY LJUBICIC HAS CANCELLED HIS STOPOVER IN MIAMI.
SILBERMAN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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